

TUESDAY
HOLIDAY ISSUE

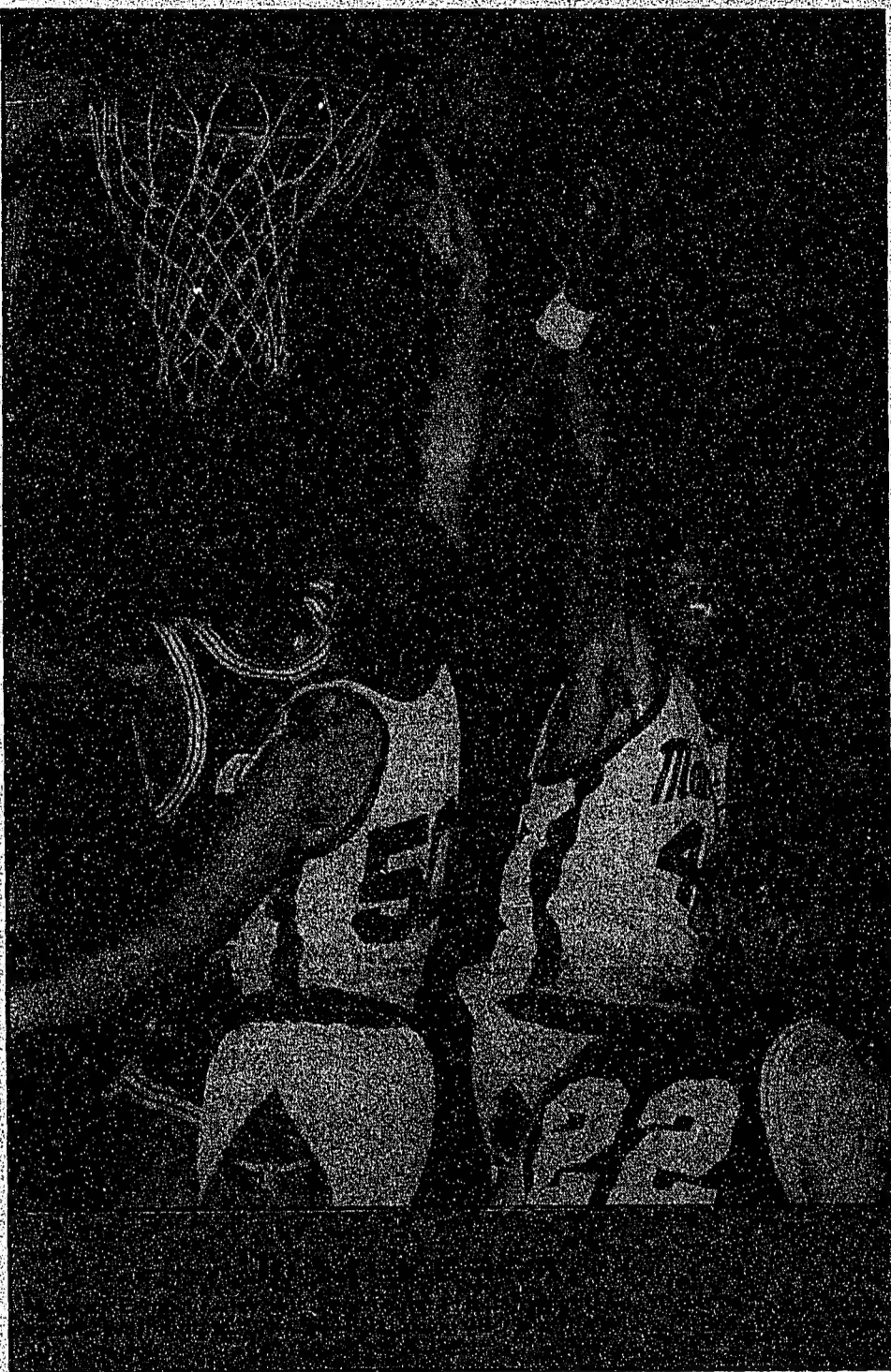
UNO
ADDITION

THE GATEWAY

December 6, 1988

Volume 88, Number 26

The University of Nebraska at Omaha



Bill would make Kearney part of university system

By RICHARD L. CUMMINGS
Senior Reporter

Kearney State College may soon join UNL, UNO and UNMC in the state's university system.

A new bill proposing to make Kearney State part of the university system will be introduced in the state Legislature session beginning Jan. 4. Jerome Warner, state senator from Waverly, the bill's author and sponsor, said he and Lorraine Langford, state senator from Kearney, are working to build support for the bill.

Warner said there are a number of alternatives to solving the problems the state college system is experiencing. One of the choices, he said, would be to create a second university system consisting of some of the larger state colleges such as Kearney and Chadron State.

The best choice would be to expand the university system by including Kearney State in the system, he said.

"If Kearney justifies itself to be a uni-

versity it should be done in a manner without duplication," Warner said.

The principle difference between a state college and a university is the size of the student body, he said.

Kearney has more on-campus, full-time students than UNO, so Kearney's size should not affect the decision to make it a university, he said. UNO has more students overall, but a larger percentage of the overall student body are part-time students.

Another difference, he said, is the state colleges generally do not have graduate programs. Kearney offers some MBAs and a limited number of graduate programs, he said. The Kearney Board of Directors of state colleges is planning to request adding graduate programs in the area of Arts and Sciences, he said.

"Prior to 1978, no state colleges had graduate programs," he said. Kearney has had substantial growth in the past decade, he said, so it is reasonable to believe Kear-

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Palestinian question hangs over U.S., Gouttierre says

By AMY BUCKINGHAM
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Nov. 15, Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), declared Palestine its own state.

Last week, the United States government barred Arafat from entering the United States to speak at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

"It issues a challenge," said Tom Gouttierre, dean of International Studies and Programs. "For a long time the ball has been in the court of the Arabs to recognize Israel's right to exist."

Now the ball is in the court of the United States and Israel to determine how they might deal with this apparent new direction in Arab thinking.

Gouttierre said the Palestinian declaration could mean two things. Arabs, Palestinian and others are becoming cognizant of the fact that if they are going to achieve their objectives, they are going to have to recognize Israel, or it may mean a new moderate initiative for the ongoing Middle East crisis.

"Right now we don't know fully what the implications of this are, but it is defi-

See Palestine on page 3

BEARD [in a beard] in every shade, size

COMMENT

KBLZ disc jockey says thanks, but no thanks

To the editor:

After reading the comments made by Peter Marsh about KBLZ, I would like to set the record straight. If Mr. Marsh would come down from the heavens long enough to get some oxygen to his brain, he would see that KBLZ has never been affiliated with any public broadcasting system, corporation or network. Therefore, we do not fall under the FCC regulations regarding advertising, or as Mr. Marsh calls it, underwriting, on a public radio station.

As Mr. Marsh is well aware, public radio is primarily funded by the contributions that it gets from listeners. Public radio stations have to go on the air several times

MAILBAG

a year and beg for these contributions. KBLZ doesn't have this option. We rely on advertising and our own initiative to keep ourselves an active part of the UNO community.

We are a club Mr. Marsh. Therefore, we are not governed by any rules or regulations, except those set down by the Student Center and the chancellor. We follow the FCC regulations as a formality, in order to give us a better understanding of how commercial radio stations work.

We appreciate the advice Mr. Marsh, but let's keep it to suggestions, not commands.

Eric Nelsen
Disc Jockey, KBLZ

Letter Policy: Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the first and last name or initials and the last name. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number, although this information will not be published. Letters exceeding two typed pages will be designated commentary and will be considered for publication as an Access column. Requests to withhold names will not be considered.

Should be everybody's business

Age respect goes in both directions

We've all heard about age discrimination. In the conventional sense, this is discrimination resulting from an individual's accumulation of years.

Let's talk about *reverse* age discrimination; resulting from an individual's apparent lack of years or more simply put: treating you or me like a buck-toothed school child because we "don't look old enough."

We don't look old enough to buy beer. We don't look old enough to buy cigarettes. We don't look old enough to eat in a certain restaurant, etc. That's the status of college students. We're kind of in the limbo of on one hand, being legal adults but, on the other, not having the appearance of adults.

Middle-aged people find this funny, especially convenience store clerks. I know even before walking into a certain Kwik Shop that I will be grilled by a man (resembling my grandfather) if I buy beer or cigarettes.

The store could be filled with elephants and he would still take time to play 20 questions about my age.

"Whoooooaaaaa, little buddy. We're gonna have to see some I.D."

"Sir, you card me every time I set foot upon the premises. Surely, you know my birth date by heart."

"Humpf. Let's see it."

He fingers my driver's license for about three minutes, holds it closer to the light, away from the light, pivots to avoid a glare on the plastic, adjusts his glasses, squints, makes strange gurgling noises in his throat and finally shakes his head with dissatisfaction.

"Boy, you're a young one!"

"Thank you."

Maybe I'll find this funny when I'm 40. I don't know. Patronizing people like the Kwik Shop man (I now call him the Ogre) act as if they are granting a favor to us

"young ones" to allow us to buy a lousy beer. Who needs it?

Well, I'll tell you who needs who. If you are ever put in a situation such as this, never go back to that establishment again. Boycott 'em. They'll learn to appreciate the value of the collegiate dollar.

Even if you're not a drinker and have never encountered the carding game, you'll run into jerks — like a friend of mine and I did on Saturday. We were in the midst of being fascinated by the "New Age" section of a bookstore. "New Age" is a relatively new buzz

Dan Swiatek

Gateway Columnist

phrase used to describe literature dealing with spiritualism, karma, shamans and the like.

One particular shelf in the "New Age" section contains do-it-yourself witchcraft books.

"Come here, you've gotta see these," my friend said. So, we were leafing through these hex books and over runs this nervous little store manager.

"Excuse me! Excuse me! If you aren't over 19, then you don't have any business looking at those books. How old are you?"

"Twenty-four. How old are you?"

"That's not the point. The point is I have to use discretion on who sees these books."

My friend is a regular customer and was somewhat taken back by the man's tact, or rather, lack of it.

"Discretion? Perhaps you should direct your discretion towards your own behavior, sir."

We now call him the Warlock, which really isn't a nice term, but people such as the Warlock and the Ogre aren't nice.

If businesses cannot treat every customer (regardless of age) with respect, then they don't deserve my business and they don't deserve yours either.

Neb. Room for everyone, or just those who dance?

It was a good show at least, instead of just another boring hour in the Nebraska room.

Last Friday afternoon, around 10:00 a.m., 15 to 20 individuals took it upon themselves to entertain the rest of us.

Many people, myself included, often manage to study in the Nebraska room regardless of the congestion. One could argue if you were really serious about studying you could wander over to the library. But, if you've only got an hour between classes it seems pretty pointless to walk over there, unpack, only to pack up again 15 minutes later.

Anyway, back to Friday. These people gathered around three or four tables and laughed and talked loudly. But

Stacey Meisenbach

Gateway Columnist

that's not what irritated me. I'm not against anyone having a good time, and if you can manage to do so at UNO, more power to you.

No, what got me was the fact that these people were compelled to bring in music, show us a few dance routines, and ignore that they were being pretty obnoxious. The worst part was they really seemed to like the attention they were getting from some dumbfounded students.

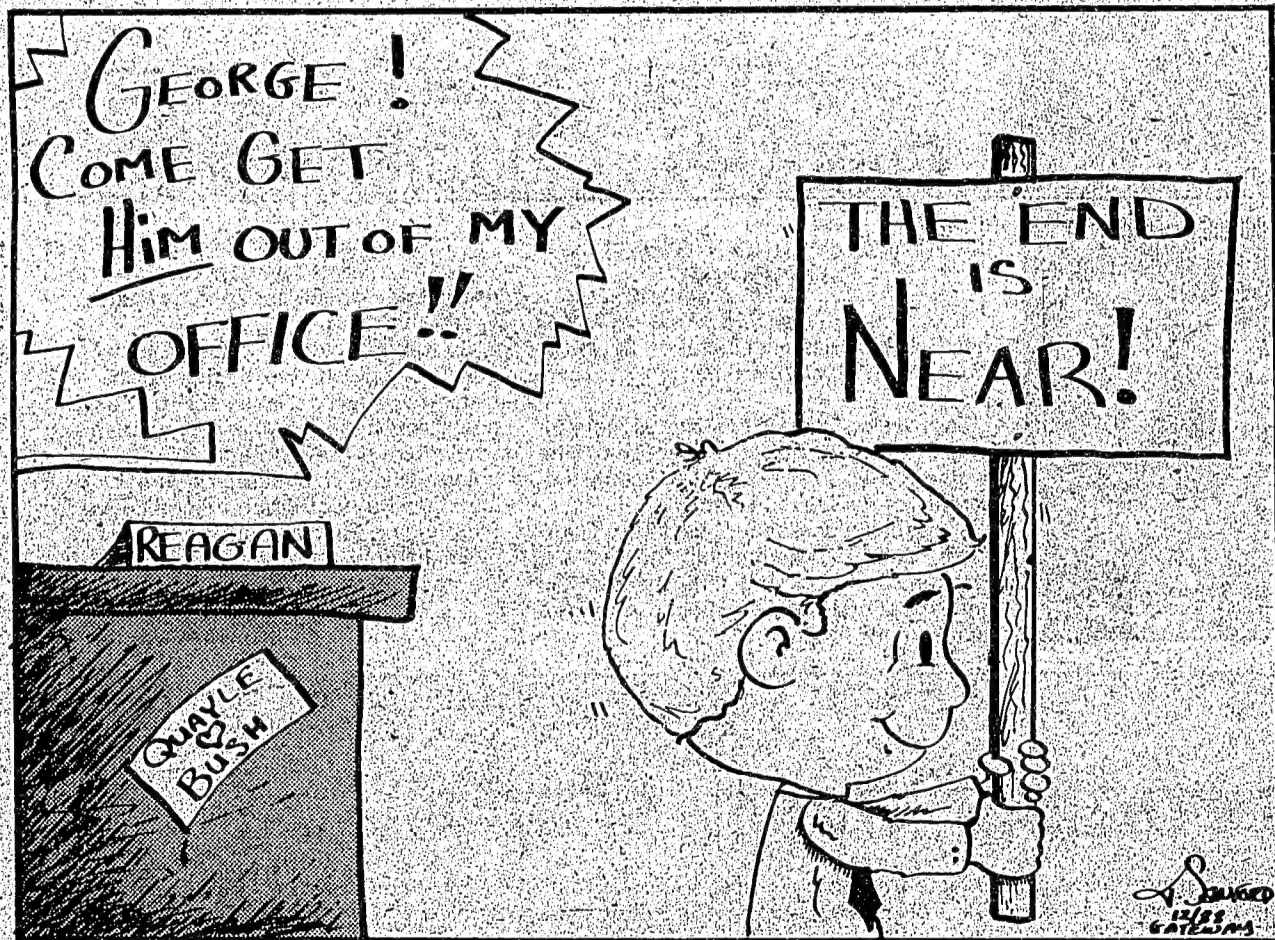
Curiously, I glanced around at other tables to see if I was the only one bothered. By the looks on people's faces, I wasn't. Some watched the performers for a few minutes and then looked away, afraid of being caught staring. Some stared in fascination, and others managed to ignore the whole thing.

Unfortunately, I wasn't one who could ignore it. I know the obvious solution would have been to just get up and go somewhere else. But why should I?

And the question I ask is: who has the rights in this Nebraska room? I could go somewhere else in the Student Center, but where? I like the Nebraska room. It's better than the Greek hole — oops, I mean, Donut Hole and the Mav room is usually full around the time I'm in the Student Center anyway. But, my point is, should I, or anyone else, have to leave due to a few students who are whooping it up?

The question becomes a matter of rights which is never easy to resolve. Is it my right to ask them to turn their music down, or to find somewhere else to practice their dance lessons? Or is it their right to dance, sing, and do whatever it is they wish to do wherever they want?

There really are no designated rules for behavior in the Student Center, so it simply becomes a matter of common courtesy, or in Friday's situation, a lack of it.



THE GATEWAY

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Nebraska Press Association

Rood returns as editor for spring semester

The Gateway staff will face changes and challenges in the upcoming semester.

The Student Publications Committee met Dec. 2 to discuss the status of The Gateway and to select the editor and advertising manager for the spring semester.

Current Editor John Rood will continue his duties for another semester. Rood has been editor since the 1988 summer session and is looking forward to the challenge.

"There were some things that I wanted to accomplish that I haven't gotten the chance to accomplish," Rood said.

Deana Vodicka will take on the responsibilities of advertising manager. Vodicka joined the staff in 1986 as a reporter, has held the positions of editor and feature editor, and is currently The Gateway's copy editor.

"I think it will help me personally to give me a taste of the other side of journalism," Vodicka said. "It's a personal challenge to have to learn something else and work at it."

Vodicka hopes to be as successful as the current advertising manager, who has increased advertising revenues. "Dan (Swiatek) has done an excellent job."

The committee also discussed The

Gateway's current production and printing contract. Priesman Graphics has done this production work for the newspaper for years, but may soon cease to operate as it has in the past. Priesman Graphics President Steve Priesman has informed The Gateway that some of his company's assets may soon be transferred to the Midlands Business Journal. He has proposed that the Midlands Business Journal provide production services to The Gateway.

Members of the committee expressed concerns about the switch to a new production company. Chairman Henry Cordes appointed a committee to investigate using computer publishing equipment to eventually replace the services provided by Priesman Graphics.

"It's unfortunate they're (Priesman) going out of business, but it will be good for us," Rood said. "This will put us in control of the entire product."

The Gateway will most likely advance to desk-top publishing, which is currently practiced in many high schools.

"I've been here for five years, and the communications department has never offered a course in typography or advanced design," Rood said. "That's an important part of journalism."

Both Rood and Vodicka foresee a significant increase in work for the staff.

"It's going to call for a lot more people who are dedicated," Vodicka said.

Vice Chancellor Richard Hoover attended the meeting to discuss a proposal he introduced at a previous committee meeting.

"Hoover would like to see the Student Center director or his designee counter-sign vouchers for Gateway expenditures," Rood said.

"Organizations have to protect themselves as much as they can," Hoover said during the meeting. "We are certainly vulnerable."

Hoover said the university has provided a lot of independence to The Gateway. He did not believe his proposal would affect content, but rather provide a system of checks and balances.

Rood said Hoover's proposal is in response to the situation that occurred when Joel Zarr, former Student Activities man-

ager, allegedly used his position at UNO for personal profit during the fall 1987 semester.

Rood favors a second signature, but does not believe it should be a university administrator.

"I think it's a first amendment issue any time you have a member of the administration signing expenditures," Rood said. "It's hard to write about the guy who's signing your paycheck."

"Student Activities has no idea what we do over here," Rood said. "Why would they be qualified to sign?"

Rosalie Melches, who manages business transactions for The Gateway, has been the only signer on Gateway vouchers. Purchases of more than \$500, except for editorial payroll checks, are approved by the Publications Committee. The committee has designated the editor as the second signer on the account.

The committee is expected to take action on Hoover's proposal during its January meeting.

Palestine from page 1

nately a new direction," he said.

Neither the United Nations (UN) nor the United States have as yet recognized Palestine as an independent state.

"The U.S. feels that it is premature, at this point, to formally recognize Palestine as a state," he said. "This is mainly because Palestine has not met the criteria of the U.S. This is due to Palestine having no physical control over a region."

"The UN is not in a position legally to recognize Palestine as a nation," he said. "The General Assembly would have to propose resolutions to admit Palestine to the UN."

Arafat tried to obtain a visa to enter the United States and speak to the UN. The U.S. government has denied permission. According to Goutierre, the United States is reluctant to give Arafat permission to enter the country because of his alleged

association with terrorist activities.

However, opponents of the U.S. government claim the Arabs are moderating their stance, and are turning a new page in Israeli-Palestinian relationships.

"If indeed what has happened over the last month is a new moderated approach by Arafat and the Arabs," he said, "and is continued to be denied a visa, perhaps an opportunity will be lost to test this proclaimed new moderate approach."

"If we don't admit him (Arafat), then we really aren't testing him."

"In not dealing with Palestine in this new era, which they have proclaimed, I'm concerned the U.S. is removing itself from an effective role in current and future Middle East relations."

And I would hate to see the U.S. role in the Middle East diminished.

Kearney from page 1

ney could add the necessary programs to become a university.

"Some think (the proposal) would make Kearney the small fish in the pond; some think it would detract from UNL," he said.

Warner said his response to these and other arguments is to ask how best service can best be provided to the students. He said he suggests an expansion of the university system to include more possibilities to students and locations.

Physical location of Kearney should not be a reason to not include it in the university system either, he said.

"Improved telecommunications (in the future) will break down the restrictions on inter-campus communication," he said. Breaking down the barriers, he said, will allow for less rivalry between campuses. This improved communication will let the whole system improve its efficiency by making it possible for instructors and administrators to service the whole system, not just one campus, he said.

Warner said his colleague Langford, at first opposed the bill but she was convinced that the proposal to expand the university system was the best alternative available.

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Job opportunities in sciences may mean moving

By **PATRICE M. NORTHAM**
Staff Reporter

The job market for science majors looks promising if they are willing to relocate and if they know what they really want to do, according to Bob Gibson, director of Career Planning and Placement services.

"Take a chemistry major, for example. You have to ask the person, 'Do you want to get into research? Education? Chemical sales? Business?' You can't just say the jobs for chemistry majors are there because it depends on what kind of job," Gibson said. "The same goes for all the sciences."

Jobs specific for chemistry or physics are available, but in limited number, Gibson said. However, jobs in a general field like health services are more abundant.

"Nursing is a booming field," Gibson said. "People can almost choose their salary if they're in nursing."

Gibson said the nice thing about the sciences is that a student can go at least three ways: into education, business or research.

"The big difference is the salary," Gibson said. "The opportunities for advancement and higher pay aren't as great in education."

However, job satisfaction may compensate for lower pay.

"If you're going into, say, field biology, you go into it because you love it not because of the pay," said Barbara Wilson, assistant biology instructor.

She added that getting a broad education is helpful and that "a teaching certificate never hurts, neither do rec-

reation classes. Something beyond biology can help you land that first job."

According to Gibson, a student looking for a research job may run into difficulty but not as much if he is willing to relocate.

"When we talk about job opportunities, we aren't talking about Omaha," Gibson said. "Your chances are much better if you are able to move."

"The overall job outlook is good if one is willing to move around the country," said James Carroll, assistant professor of chemistry. "Salaries for chemists are extremely low in Omaha."

Although the job market may be a little tight for chemists, physicists and biologists, it looks much better for computer scientists and engineers. According to the September 1988 College Placement Council (CPC) Survey, more jobs were offered to computer science majors than in any other science discipline. Low on the list were job offers to physics majors.

The top monthly salary of \$2,863 went to pharmacists while the lowest (\$1,300) went to architectural and environmental designers.

The 1988-89 Occupational Outlook Handbook said employment of engineers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2000. Starting salaries for inexperienced engineering graduates with bachelor's degrees averaged \$27,900.

The American Chemical Society reported that newly graduated women with bachelor of science degrees in chemical engineering earn \$31,200 while men earn 2 percent less. At the M.S. level, women earn \$34,400, 7

percent more than men.

Although women in some areas of engineering may make more than men, only 8 percent of all reported engineering jobs were offered to women, 34 percent to men, according to the CPC survey. Jobs in most other science fields were distributed equally among both sexes.

Gibson said no matter the market, students need to learn how to find the jobs, how to write their resumes.

"Students need to go to their placement offices. They need to talk to faculty, friends and as many people related to their field as they can," he said. "It helps to know somebody who knows somebody who knows somebody."

Finding a job can be a job in itself. Gibson said students need to put a lot of time and effort into getting an interview, let alone a job.

"Many students take four to eight years getting a degree and then they want a job yesterday, or they get frustrated because they don't have a great resume after two hours of work," Gibson said.

"It's tough," he added. "You need to hit the pavement and it's tough. You need to be able to go out and sell yourself."

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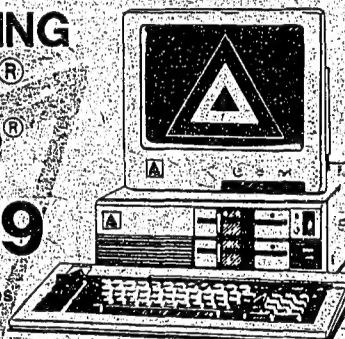
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Special Holiday Section

Holiday bellringers abound

By RICHARD L. CUMMINGS

Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

—Ernest Hemingway

Karen and Joyce stand for hours, giving passers-by a smile, a "hello," never once asking for anything in return. If you like, you can make a donation; they hope you will. Others like them ring bells, some rattle change in their cups. Please, throw your spare change in their cup or the bright red pot.

Salvation Army bell ringers can be seen in any spot frequented by holiday shoppers. They're so cheerful, such a part of the holiday scene that's been so enduring and constant they often go unnoticed.

These generous souls know the greatest gift anyone can receive is the warm feeling of giving. Karen Anderson and Joyce Kramer are Omaha Pilot Club volunteers for the Salvation Army. Their organization, a professional women's service club, donates their members' time one night each holiday season to stand at the mall entrance to Younkers (previously Brandies) in the Crossroads seeking donations to fund the Army's year-round good works.

Some people tell the pair they gave at the other end of the mall.

"A lot of people drop something in," Karen said.

"Even if it's just a nickel, it helps," Joyce added. Their pot or someone else's, it doesn't matter to these two; they just want to help others.

Karen and Joyce have been friends for years; this is something they get to do alone together once a year.

"We both have families; this is one time we get together with each other without the families around and catch up," Joyce explained.

It is readily noticeable this pair is close, the way they talk, knowing each others thoughts the way only old friends can.

"Our families spend so much time together; it's like they're one and the same," Joyce said. In years past, as their families moved around the globe, they stayed fast friends. Joyce has two children, 16 and 28, while Karen has four, 23 through 28. "Our oldest children are only two weeks apart."

It's wonderful to learn in this sometimes unfriendly, mean world there are at least some people who enjoy giving of themselves and a person's most valuable gift: her time. Joyce is a kindergarten teacher at Minne-Lusa Elementary, while Karen is "a professional volunteer." I do volunteer work for the Girl Scouts, the Holy Name Thrift Shop and the Red Cross.

"A lot of families let the little children come up and give the money to us," Joyce said.

"And they have to give it to both of us, some in each of our cups," Karen threw in. With the glow that comes to her face as she speaks of children, it is obvious she would be the type of grandmother who would be a child's greatest fantasy.

"I think it's great when families teach their children to give," Joyce enthused. Twenty years as a teacher of kindergartners has not paled her love of small children. "They're delightful."

The number of young people, the ones just out with their friends at the mall, that give money might surprise some people, Joyce pointed out. It does not surprise this duo. "They're attune to the world, its needs."

"Young people are the most of the givers," Karen said in support of her friend's statement.

But not everyone is like these two, so willing to give. Alas, how can they encourage people to give to this worthy cause?

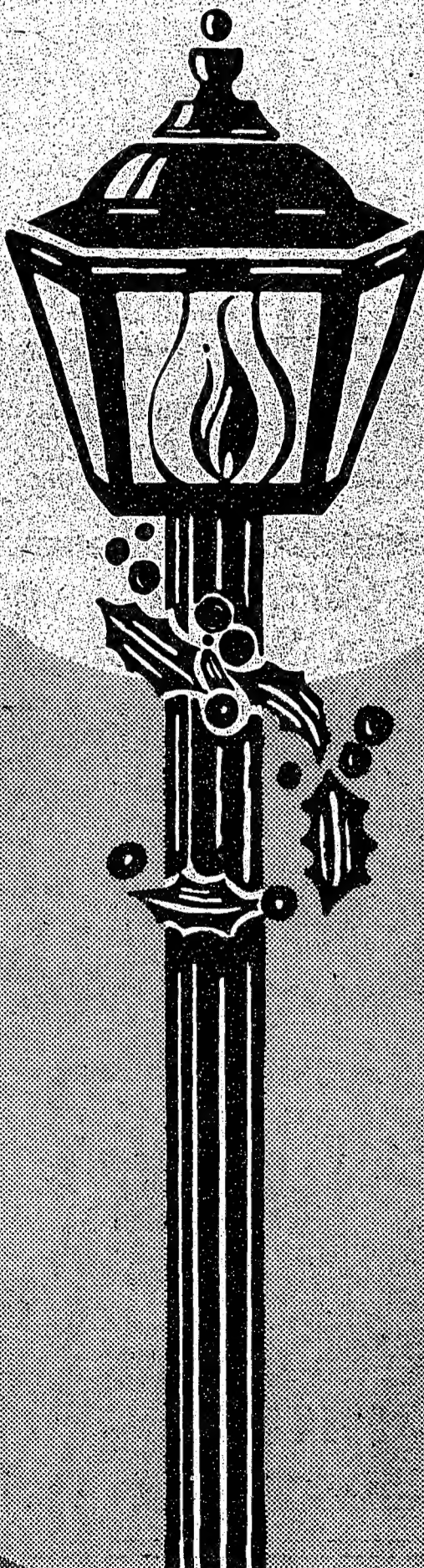
"Try to catch their eye. Make eye contact," explained Joyce. This method, they said, makes some people give something when they might not have before. In the end, "it makes them feel good to give." Joyce said with a smile. And everyone wins when a good cause receives generous funding.

Every day it seems paychecks stretch less and less far, but this twosome, who have been volunteering for Salvation Army duty for about five years, said the giving has not really slowed down from their observation.

Giving, they say, is part of the Christmas tradition.

"If you missed the opportunity to meet these two, they will be there again in the years to come."

"As long as our pins will stand, we'll do it," Joyce said with conviction.



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At Christmas time: Santa Claus more than just a job for some

By LIZ WELLING

A typical day three weeks before Christmas was how Jerry McKay described his first day on the job.

But as he reported for work in his own Winter Wonderland Nov. 30 clad in a red suit, black boots and grey beard, McKay's job would probably be classified more as a bit out of the ordinary.

McKay works as Santa Claus at the Crossroads mall.

McKay said he spends a lot of time talking.

"I just basically listen to what they want, and I talk loud enough to make sure the parents hear."

McKay said a typical conversation goes something like this:

"I first ask them how old they are, and say that they've grown since last year. Then I ask their name again, what they want and finally, if they've been good."

"Some say they've been good, then look at their parents and admit that maybe they haven't been that good," McKay said.

A few of the kids are more willing than others to talk.

"A lot are just basically interested in what I have to say," McKay said.

This Santa Claus said he tries not to promise the kids all of their wishes.

"One kid asked me why he didn't get something he had asked for last year. I just stood there and said that I would see what we have at the North Pole," he said.

McKay said he can tell a lot about the children's backgrounds just by what they want.

"It makes you think. Some have these huge lists, while others just want one thing."

However, Santa Claus's influence doesn't just extend to children.

"People in all age groups are just amazed by Santa. I will watch elderly people sit and position themselves just because they love to watch kids talk to Santa," McKay said.

This one woman forked over a 2-day-old infant at me. It's kind of funny because if I was to walk through the mall without my costume on, these people probably wouldn't let me near their kids," he said.

There are a few drawbacks to the job, though. He said he doesn't like it when the parents hand him screaming kids.

"The bottom line is that they shouldn't force them. It just scares them all the more," he said.

But the worst thing is the hot costume.

"I sweat the entire time. Last year, they had a fan positioned directly at me. I'm dressed for winter inside a mall."

Besides these things, he said he enjoys his job and will probably do it again next year.



— Dave Weaver

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Guidelines shed light on season's toys

By ELIZABETH TAPE

As we go about these days making decisions about purchases for children, we all want our gifts to be well-received and to generate much pleasure for the recipients. It seems, then, an appropriate time to delve into some guidelines for what might good presents.

To shed some light on this, I had the opportunity to speak with several individuals in Omaha who offer considerable experience and expertise.

Deborah McCollister of H.M.S. Toys and Treasures at 7631 Pacific St. has a background of six years experience in mental retardation. She has run her store for about seven years; Linda Kasher opened The Village Toymaker in Countryside Village (87th and Pacific Sts.) about five years ago; and has recently moved to a new location in One Pacific Place. Developmental Specialist Kathy Walburn evaluates high-risk newborns at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

All three agreed that a significant factor in their assessment of toys is their own children's reaction to them, and they certainly have a horde of experts! McCollister has three children, Kasher six and Walburn five.

One important factor in a toy's success, its duration of interest to a child, can be greatly influenced by how much he can manipulate it. Walburn comments that "The more a toy does, the less the kid does, and the less the staying power." Her favorite toys, she says, are those that encourage interaction with the child.

Another important aspect she brings up is how much a toy encourages interaction and sharing with other kids. She points out that even the simplest of toys, such as a ball, provides activities that a child can do with other children.

Walburn also points out the benefits of thinking ahead developmentally, noting for example, that children after about two begin to do more pretending and toys need no longer resemble real items as closely as they previously did, items such as toy telephones. McCollister also mentioned the importance of such imitative then pretend play, which grows through ages three and four into such activities as, for example, playing "Fireman." Such play, she points out, involves considerable creativity.

McCollister points out another issue to consider before purchasing: Is this a family's first child? If so, she or he may not as yet have received more basic toys, but if second or thereafter, such toys may already be in her home

and perhaps something more "esoteric" might be appreciated.

Another point Walburn makes is the importance of buying with the child in mind, rather than satisfying adult yearnings from one's own childhood. Even if parents do harbor such lingering desires for a favorite toy, these may not be toys of interest to the children.

McCollister notes that different customers come in with different desires for their. For instance, some prefer to select a toy that will generate considerable excitement at the time of its opening, but may not remain a favorite for as long as a seemingly less thrilling item, such as blocks, which a child might actually enjoy more often.

As for gauging toys by their recommended ages, Walburn comments that occasionally a toy intended for a three or four-year-old can be enjoyed by a six-month-old who might get pleasure from simply watching it or listening to it. Although parents may have to activate the toy, it might be a good selection. Also, she points out that a toy intended for a slightly older child might work well for a younger one whose particular strengths lie in the area of the toy.

Kasher notes that occasionally when a toy is not immediately successful, putting it away for a time and re-introducing it can bring great satisfaction. Sometimes, the child was not ready for it, and sometimes either a parent or the child herself devises new ways to play with the same toy.

For older children, McCollister suggested considering such possibilities as detective books with games that involve problems solving, or science toys, despite their occasionally poorly written instruction sheets. Art supplies for many remain a favorite. Kasher emphasizes also the value of scientific toys, noting the increasing curiosities of many children in the 10 to 12 range and the educational value of good toys.

McCollister notes that if a child's game appeals to adults

See Toys on page 8

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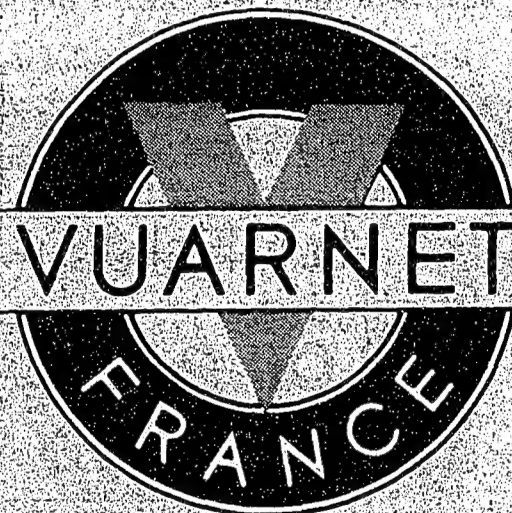
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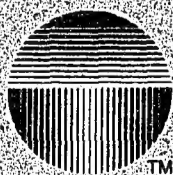
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Toys from page 7

as well, it may generate more enjoyment and become part of a family activity. Kasher notes that some toys require more parental instruction than others.

With regard to video games, Walburn finds them potentially "detrimental," perhaps encouraging "compulsive" behavior. McCollister is pleased to note that even in our video age, some standard board games remain pop-

ular, encouraging more interactive play.

Block and trains remain favorites. This season, Kasher notes, rocking horses, roller coasters, dolls among other items are popular. She remains fond of magnetic blocks that lend themselves to a wide range of shapes and actions.

Both Kasher and McCollister emphasize the pleasure they derive from interacting with their customers. In their beautifully arranged shops, they get to know customers and often their children as well. Influenced by the suggestions and responses of their customers, both proprietors also enjoy advice from teachers. Committed to their patrons' satisfaction, they strive to assist them in finding toys that will make children happy.

This commitment jibes well with Walburn's suggestion that one effective means to determine children's interests is to walk them through a toy store and see what captivates them. She reiterates her recommendation to get one's cues on purchases from the children themselves.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tchaikovsky meets Divine in 'The Madcracker'

Q: What features dancing house plants, a nerd clad in leather underwear and a hairy sugar-plum fairy?

A: Last Thursday's performance of *The Madcracker* at the Strauss Performing Arts Center, sponsored by SPO and the Nebraska Arts Council and performed by members of the Mid America Dance Company (MADCO).

Billed as "a pungently witty holiday bonbon," *The Madcracker* featured interesting variations on ballet, jazz, flamenco, tap and other types of dance. The show was basically a takeoff on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* ballet, with some yuppie-type humor and ludicrous dance concepts thrown in for good measure.

The story begins as Clara (Elizabeth Lincoln), a rich divorcee with a sense of contempt for her current beau and

This was one of the most well-received scenes of the evening. Meyer and the party-goers re-appear and turn the strip routine into a confrontation which sends Clara and the two men on their journey through act II.

The members of the love-triangle find themselves in "The Land of the Entertainments," an abstract theme-park of sorts where a series of ghosts and apparitions perform some innovative and humorous variations on traditional dance styles.

Act II bounces and twirls through a series of dances with titles like "Nymphs, Loves, Zephyrs & Swains," "La Danza de las Tres Chicas con Abanicos" (The Dance of the Three Women with Fans) and "The Dance of the Oymorons."

The funniest dance, "The Dance of the House Plants," featured six of the 13 MADCO dancers in green tights and strategically hung vines. The dance itself was reminiscent of the bad ballet parodies on TV shows like "Saturday Night Live."

One of the most innovative dances was "The Dance of the Minimal Flute," featuring Clara and the Madcracker. Each was decked out in full sidewalk-surfing regalia complete with elbow pads, crash helmets, fluorescent surfboard-colored tights, and only one roller-skate apiece. The Swan Lake-Roller Boogie result turned out to be an incredibly creative and well-executed dance routine, one which I initially thought would be a clumsy parody routine.

A hilarious addition to the play which quickly ran out of energy was the appearance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, played by Rossalbertina Winterova (actually Ross Winter, MADCO's artistic director). The Sugar-Plum Fairy has some good moments in which the Madcracker develops a lustful eye for her and acts accordingly, much to the chagrin of Clara. Unfortunately, this idea doesn't develop too far and is quickly lost in the shuffle.

Winterova's character looked like a reincarnation of the late Divine less about 150 pounds, half of the make-up, but with more than three times the body hair. The Sugar Plum Fairy blends into the background as the other per-



Members of the St. Louis based Mid America Dance Company (MADCO) who are now on tour with "The Madcracker." The group was at UNO on Dec. 1 performing this satire of Tchaikovsky's ballet titled "The Nutcracker."

formers take command of the dancing chores. The show ends as Clara wakes up with a migraine head-

See Mad on page 12

REVIEW

a taste for young males, has a party in her condo. Among the guests are Clara's beau Dross L. Meyer (Gary Hubler), and Meyer's young, robust, but hopelessly nerdy nephew (Scott Loeb).

The Madcracker, as Loeb's character is called, catches and keeps Clara's attention throughout the party. He also infuriates Meyer, who tries to humiliate the Madcracker with an obnoxious party hat made from a hollow, screenless TV set.

Act I ends as Clara hides a bracelet on Meyer and calls a police officer who finds the bracelet on Meyer and hauls him off. The guests gradually leave, and Clara falls asleep and dreams her way into the next scene.

Between images of a vampire-like Meyer and "Night of the Living Dead" type party-goers, the Madcracker bursts into Clara's dream with a smooth, virile attitude and a leather jockstrap underneath his schoolboy uniform. The Madcracker does an elaborate strip-tease routine much to the delight of Clara and the women in the audience.



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SPORTS

UNO's inside game shrinks in loss

By DAVID JAHR
Sports Editor

The UNO men's basketball team seemed to have shrunk Saturday night.

Wayne State College started a front line with the tallest player being 6-foot-6 who out rebounded and beat a bigger Maverick team, 78-75.

The loss dropped UNO to 1-2 on the season. Wayne State raised its record to 4-2 with the first win over UNO since 1973.

"It's a great, great win for our program," Wayne State Coach Steve Aggers said. "It's nice to win on the road, but a win over a team with a good tradition makes it that much better."

UNO Coach Bob Hanson said Wayne played as well as they could play, thanks to Aggers.

"He's doing a great job. The game last night shows the job he's done," Hanson said.

On the court, the play of Wildcat center Marques Wilson did the job. Wilson scored 27 points and ripped off 11 rebounds, which makes him one of the leading rebounders in the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association, with an average of 13 a game.

As far as height goes, Wilson gave three inches to 6-foot-9-inch UNO starting center Troy Deane.

"We didn't use our size to our advantage," Hanson

said. "We need to get more production from our inside game, right now all our scoring is from the perimeter."

The Mavs were behind by as much as 10 points mid way in the second half before coming back to take a lead 73-70 with 1:15 minutes left to play.

Wildcat forward Sherman Petite scored five of his 13 points in the final minute. Petite sank two free throws and nailed a three-pointer lifting Wayne 75-73 over UNO.

After two Wilson free throws and a Mike Harner running jumper, Wayne could not inbound the ball before a five-second call was given. UNO's last chance ended when Harner's inbound pass went loose and guard Thor Palamore fouled Wayne freshman Doug Kuszak to get it.

Following Kuszak's 1-2 free throw effort, Harner fumbled a long, desperation shot as time expired.

Hanson said Wayne's three-point shooting and offensive rebounding were the major factors that caused UNO to fall.

The Wildcats shot 61 percent from behind the three-point arc and out rebounded UNO 37-23.

Aggers saw the game's tempo as the major factor for his win.

"We did a nice job in our full-court zone press, which kept the tempo in our favor," Aggers said.

UNO played Missouri Western last night, but game results were not available at deadline. The Mavs' next game is at home against Doane College Dec. 10 at 8:05.



— Dave Weaver

Maverick Earnest Farley (40) gets the ball at the post, despite Wayne State defender Marques Wilson (left).



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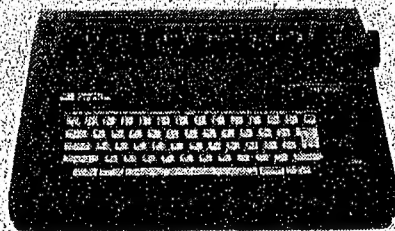
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Lady Mavericks get physical in victory over NW Missouri

By BOB MARTINEZ
Staff Reporter

After a disappointing loss to Creighton Tuesday, UNO Coach Cherri Mankenberg said the Lady Mav basketball team came into Saturday night's game with a more aggressive attack.

Northwest Missouri State became the victim, suffering a 74-59 defeat at the hands of the more physical UNO team.

"The girls played a good aggressive game," Mankenberg said. "The intensity in which the girls played showed by the outcome of the game."

The Lady Mavs took a four-point lead

"Now I just need to learn how to play aggressive without fouling out."

— Kathy Van Diepen

into the locker room at the half. A large part of the lead was due to Kathy Van Diepen and Julie Johnston.

In the first half, Van Diepen scored 10 points and pulled down six rebounds. Johnston, who scored only two first half points, contributed with her defensive performance against Northwest Missouri's leading scorer Janet Clark.

"Clark was the player we had to shut down," Mankenberg said. "She was averaging 20 points a game coming into tonight's contest."

The Bearkitten scored only four points in the first half and finished the game with eight points.

Five minutes into the second half, the

Lady Mavs widened their lead into the low teens. Northwest Missouri responded to UNO's run, applying a full-court press.

"I think the press gave us some problems, but we were still able to keep a comfortable lead," Mankenberg said.

The full court press forced UNO to turn over the ball, but Northwest Missouri's low shooting percentage and turnovers ruined the come from behind effort.

The aggressive playing that helped the Lady Mavs in the first half continued in the second. Van Diepen, who finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds, fouled out of the game with 3 minutes left to play.

"It was my game plan to play more aggressive than I did the last two games," Van Diepen said. "Now I just need to learn how to play aggressive without fouling out."

Van Diepen's physical playing is not only seen by her stats, but also by the number of times she crashed to the floor scrapping for the ball.

"I have been working harder to get the ball... I plan on playing aggressive the rest of the year," she said.

The 15-point difference at the end of the game reflected the scoring margin for most of the second half.

The game's leading scorer was UNO's Jill Dau, who finished with 18 points. Other Lady Mavs to finish in double digits include Tricia Floyd with 13 and Marsha Moore with 10.

Friday night, UNO travels to Quincy College and on Saturday night, to Northeast Missouri State at 5:30 p.m. in women's basketball action.

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Author gives tips to budding writers

By MIKE MULLEN
Staff Reporter

Marion Marsh Brown, author of 18 books and former UNO professor, tells aspiring writers to use their instinct in creating literature.

"If you live, and have your eyes open and your ears open, you can't avoid possible subjects for writing," Brown said.

Brown, who spoke at the UNO Library Dec. 1, addressed problems on getting books published and also writing techniques.

Brown said she has never used an agent to find a publisher for her books. Serving as her own agent, she writes query letters (letters seeking publication for the book) to publishing houses explaining what the book is about and indicating why the book is something readers want.

"I don't enjoy writing query letters," she said. "I am not good at selling anything."

If the publishing house is interested, they will ask to see sample chapters, she said. Then the publisher asks for the entire manuscript.

One benefit Brown said encouraged her on the way to becoming an author was having a story published as a child. But being published was not the driving force to get her to write.

"I suppose little things like that (being published at 10 years old) really encouraged me to go on, but probably the big thing that really got me started writing was I loved to read," she said.

Brown, a native Nebraskan and resident of Omaha, said because of her inquisitiveness for life and people, she creates ideas with characters. She said a childhood fascination of a woman walking to the Pacific Coast with a baby on her back prompted her to write her most recent book, *Sacagawea*.

"Almost always the idea begins with character for me," she said. "I'm most interested of course in people, whether real or imaginary."

"I live with that person quite a while, and get to know that person, probably better than members of my own family, maybe even before I start to write," she said.

After the author has settled on the idea of a character, she begins to do research for the book. Brown said almost all of her books have either a historical or a biographical background, or are located in a region she is not familiar with.

The geographical aspect of her research has taken the author to a cemetery to validate the dates from the headstone of Susan La Flesch, the first Indian woman to become a physician, for her book *Homeward the Arrow's Flight*. Brown said she also traveled to South Carolina to get the feel of the swamps for her book titled *The Swamp Fox*.

Having completed the research, Brown said the next step in the process is an outline.

"I did teach English for quite a few years, so the old English teacher in me comes out," she said.

The author, who taught English at UNO full-time for 14 years, outlines the book a chapter at a time using a sentence outline. Brown said an outline helps her to know where she's going, how she's going to get there and the ending point for a chapter.

With the outline laid out, the author said she begins writing, which usually involves writing a chapter a day unless the chapter is too long. Brown admitted the creative writing process remains a mystery to her.

"I can merely say that the words just come, and I do very little stopping and thinking at the time that I am actually writing," she said.

Mad from page 9

ache and the adulations of the other characters who watch her gaze into a bottle of aspirin.

More than 100 people attended *The Madcracker*, according to Amy Bellows, Student Activities advisor. Audience members' wardrobe selection ranged from symphony coat-and-tie formals to polo shirts and high-top tennis shoes.

The show had a lot of visual gags, such as Clara's male pin-up calendar, fans that stuck to the faces of the dancers, kazoo as backing instruments for some of the dancing and choreographed nose-blowing as part of a dance routine.

The SPO crew and Rainbow Studios did an excellent job of hiding the clumsy light trees and lift-towers which made for a clean and continuous stage. It would have been perfect had I not been occasionally distracted by crew members wandering around behind the curtains manipulating the lights.

The show was a high-caliber production from the opening music taken from "2001: A Space Odyssey" to the final bows. The energy of the performers was not offset in the least by the somewhat disappointing crowd turnout. Well worth the study time sacrificed.

— JIM LORENCE

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